

**2010 Professional Issues Conference:
Organizing for Maine's Great Public Schools
Saturday, March 20, 2010 • Husson University, Bangor**

Agenda

CHECK-IN (7:30 AM)
WELCOME (8:30 – 9:15)
TRANSITION (9:15 – 9:30)
ALL DAY SESSIONS (9:30 – 3:45)
<p>C.A.R.E. (Culture, Abilities, Resilience, Effort): Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gaps This workshop/course is designed to help Educators understand how to use research-based classroom proven strategies to improve teaching & learning. Training on C.A.R.E.: Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gaps is available to help Educators understand how to apply this research in instructional practice. Participants will be introduced to research-based strategies and engage in discussion, practice, and practicum to help them apply this research and use the resources in the guide.</p>
<p>I Can Do It! <i>I Can Do It!</i> is an all-day workshop that gives new or “nearly new” teachers and paraprofessionals the pieces of the puzzle they need for success in the classroom. Participants receive tools to provide students with a classroom atmosphere that is optimum for learning and will discover how successful teachers create a safe and supportive learning environment. Participants are given a packet of practical strategies, tips and resources that they can begin using immediately in their professional settings.</p>
<p>Teacher Leadership Developed with and presented at a national NEA event, this training helps teachers think about change. From the classroom, school or district level to state and national concerns, teachers can be a powerful voice in what matters to them. Participants learn about change and how to lead it. They see examples of how other NEA members have advocated for and led successful education reforms...all of which started right in their classroom.</p>
MORNING SESSIONS (9:30 – Noon)
<p>AIM for all Kids – Kittery to Fort Kent (Acquiring accessible Instructional Materials for All Kids from Kittery to Fort Kent) IDEA 2004 identified accessible instructional materials as key to increasing access for students and the 124th Legislature is considering amending State statutes to align with Federal requirements. Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) are specialized formats of curricular content that can be used by and with learners with print disabilities. They include Braille, audio, digital text, and large print.</p>
<p>Classroom Resources for Educators (and they are FREE!) Are you looking for free resources in your classroom? The presenter has been dubbed the “Freebie Queen” because she sends for free stuff all the time and passes it along to her colleagues. She has lots of resources for bullying prevention, diversity, youth for human rights, social issues, science stuff, and all things free. Come and learn how to use some of the resources she has received and how to receive your own copies. Bring your laptops and she’ll show you more things that are free, free, free! The session will be held in the MAC lab; if you do not know MAC, please bring a laptop if you can!</p>
<p>Differentiating Instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs) in a Standards-Based Context Based on the premise that all learners can participate in a mainstream classroom, this session will examine how academic content can be differentiated for ELLs to their level of language competence. Academic language proficiency, English language proficiency standards, and general approaches for delivering instruction will be addressed</p>

It's Not Just Your Health Insurance Anymore

Come and learn about all the tools you have available to you to help you look and feel your best. Learn about ways to maximize your health and well-being, reduce your stress levels and recapture the energy you seem to have lost. Take a couple of hours for you!

MainePERS Retirement and You

Thinking of retiring? Are you being offered a retirement incentive? Are you a Cliffer or non-Cliffer? This session will deal with the normal retirement ages and penalties, working limitations in retirement before normal retirement age. Application of unused sick leave (up to 30 days) to average compensation and application of unused sick leave (up to 90 days) to retirement time. Disability retirement: How it works and benefits. Individual questions and situations will be addressed.

NEA Academy – What is it & How can it Help You and Your Members

NEA in collaboration with NEA Member Benefits has developed NEA Academy which provides quality online professional development courses and resources for our members. Learn what NEA Academy offers, how you can access it and how you can use it both as a professional development resource and as a membership recruitment and organizing resource.

Organizing for Power

This program is designed to improve your local association, strengthen ties with the community, increase educators' voice, and build better contracts. Learn how to communicate your message effectively; find alternate ways to negotiate; deal with a crisis, and, explore new ways for solving problems.

Teamwork in the Response to Intervention Process

One of the most important elements of the Response to Intervention process is teamwork. A team leads the work for each school and district in a collaborative problem solving approach. Teams need an effective meeting process to help enhance their work around RTI. This workshop will explore how to develop, maintain and sustain teams within the RTI process, leading to more efficient team meetings.

Wage and Hour Issues for ESP Members

State and federal laws address some of these questions; others must be collectively bargained: What are considered hours worked toward overtime? What if my employer knows I'm working "off the clock" and not getting paid? Can I volunteer (or BE "volunteered") to work without pay? When can I earn and use compensatory time? If I have been overpaid due to my employer's mistake, do I have to pay it all back at once? What if I was *underpaid* in the past, but the grievance time limits have expired—can I still recover back pay? Can I be assigned to do the work of a higher paid co-worker without any increase in pay for myself?

LUNCH (Noon – 1:00 pm)

TRANSITION (1:00 – 1:15)

AFTERNOON SESSIONS (1:15 – 3:45)

Boundary Issues and Legal Consequences

This workshop will explore the challenges faced by teachers and other professional educators in recognizing and maintaining appropriate boundaries with students. In particular, we will examine "Whose Needs Are Being Met?" and "What Educational Purpose Is Being Served?" by these interactions. Learn how to protect the personal and professional integrity of your roles, and to avoid situations which may lead to such adverse consequences as: "Getting Fired; Getting Sued; Losing Your Certificate; and Going to Jail."

Changing Lenses

Beyond traditional approaches to dealing with colleagues and students, learn to look at relationship issues through a new lens. This session, designed for all school employees, demonstrates a restorative approach to change – one that emphasizes mutual respect, listening to the needs, feelings, and opinions of everyone involved.

Diversity Education

In the past, the task of teaching was less complicated. Schools had their ways of delivering instruction, and students were expected to adapt to them in order to get as much as they could from their education. Today, teacher and instructional personnel face a variety of new challenges. Societies expectations for achievement in education, changing community demographics and school reform place new demands on teachers - - demands for versatility, flexibility and creativity. Now, teachers must change to meet the needs of the students. Diversity training is needed for all educators. The session will provide statistical information as well as in class activities that can be used in your classroom.

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Strategies and Activities for Helping ELLs Learn Content

This session will focus on practical strategies and activities for teachers to use in teaching content, grades 4-12. There will be a specific focus on listening, speaking, reading, and writing through a variety of interactive activities.

Web 2.0: Accessing Information

Feeling overwhelmed by all the information, technology and applications on the Web? This session will help you learn how to access what's important to you and your students. The session will be held in the MAC lab, if you do not know MAC, please bring a laptop if you can! The session is intended for relative beginners.

You're In Charge Now

This workshop is designed to help educators understand the financial challenges and decisions they may find themselves faced with such as budgeting, using credit wisely, general insurance considerations, savings and retirement. It will provide general information about investing, the need for a plan, and how to work towards achieving the lifestyle of your dreams. In addition, this session will provide basic information about Maine State Retirement System.



Leading the Way to Great Public Schools for Every Maine Student